All efforts are being made to enlist the cooperation of the people in tackling the situation both to contain and isolate the militants. Towards this end, instructions have also been given to ensure that the operations are targetted and intelligence based, and the scope for harm to civilians life and property minimised. Actions is also being taken to activate the local administration and to make it more accountable and responsive; step up the pace of development; and to create employment opportunities, with a view to bringing up people into the mainstream. Minister of State (Internal Security) has been visiting the State regularly to reviw all these efforts.

Recently, Union Home Minister also visited the State on 17 November. Further efforts are being made to identify and activise the political elements in the State, who are willing to move towards the ending of violence and restoration of normalcy and the political process.

Action Against persons responsible for Bombay Blasts

1725. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in locating the whereabout of the persons involved in Bombay blasts and who escaped to other countries;

(b) the action being taken to bring them back in the country; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Out of the 189 persons found responsible and charge-sheeted in connection with the Bombay bomb blast incidents, 145 have been arrested and the remaining 44 are absconding. Out of these 44 absconding accused 24 are reported to be abroad. There is not authentic information about the present whereabouts of these persons. Red corner notices have been got issued and circulated through Interpol for 23 of these persons so far who include Dawood Ibrahim, his brother Anis Ibrahim and members of the Memon family. There has not been any delay in the matter.

1726. *[Transferred to 24th Dec., 1993.]*

Monitoring of Lottery Business

1727. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the prevailing corruption in floating of a number of lotteries in various States besides allowing private parties to organise the draw and sell tickets in contravention of the Supreme Court Judgement;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the desirability of setting up a nodal central agency to monitor the lottery business; and

(c) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Complaints about malpractices in running lotteries are received from time to time. These are sent to the concerned State Governments, as it is within their purview to take action on malpractices and complaints relating to lotteries.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Keeping in view the malpractices reported, the Central Government has, from time to time, issued guidelines to the States to curb these malpractices.

Trouble by Infilitrators in South Bengal Towns

1728. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press-reports to the effect that groups of people after